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EDITORIAL.

HIIS number completes our fifth volume and five years is a tolerably respectable age for any philatelic journal. We may, therefore, reasonably be jubilant on having attained such a mature age and thanking our readers for their support, which we hope they will continue, we wish them the Compliments of the Season.

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At this season of the year when all normally constituted people feel generous and even the meanest among us are apt "to pat youngsters on the head and talk to them vaguely about sixpences" we venture to issue an appeal to fiscal philatelists on behalf of the approaching Exhibition. We understand that the rank and file of fiscal philatelists have not yet responded very heartily to the request of the Fiscal Philatelic Society for donations towards the expenses of the Exhibition and we now ask especially each one to contribute his mite. Perhaps many feel some timidity in venturing to offer a small donation but we can assure such that contributions of a few shillings from each one will soon be sufficient to meet the estimated cost, as nearly one half of the sum required has already been promised. The success of the Exhibition and the value of the prizes will entirely depend upon the financial support and if only each member of the Fiscal Philatelic Society would contribute something the expenses would be adequately met.

We hope, too, that fiscal collectors will not be diffident with regard to exhibiting. Every member of the Fiscal Philatelic Society ought certainly to show something and there is no excuse for not doing so, as it will cost them nothing except the expenditure of a little time and trouble in arranging their exhibit, while there is every prospect of winning at least a diploma. For non-members the cost of 5/- for exhibiting is purely nominal and as for that sum they can exhibit in all classes, we hope that many will come forward.

We have very much pleasure in highly recommending the "Stamp Collectors' Annual," edited by Percy C. Bishop and published by C. Nissen & Co., a copy of which has been sent to us for review. This second issue of the annual "Stamp Collectors'" (for 1905) is a great improvement on the one which was published last year and contains a number of interesting papers. Among these we would especially mention "Notes on the Stamps of Victoria," by W. H. Terry; "The Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain" by C. Nissen; "A short Dictionary of philately," by P. C. Bishop; "Postal fiscals of the United Kingdom," by C. Nissen; "The story of a philatelic year: being a review of the philatelic press for 1903-1904," by P. C. Bishop. We are particularly glad to see that fiscals are not ignored, for besides the article by Mr. Nissen in the postal fiscals of Great Britain, we find "A Recruit" waxes enthusiastic over the "Joys of Revenue Stamp Collecting." The "Recruit" has tackled the revenue stamps of Great Britain as a start and naturally has soon found that many of them are by no means easy to get but a big show of these can be got together at small expense and we doubt if a beginner of fiscal collecting could make a better selection as a commencement.

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We have received a small book on "*The Postage Stamps of Great Britain*." By F. J. Melville" which is designed "as a facile and straight-forward guide for the young collector of the" "stamps of Great Britain. To meet his needs," "all the niceties of ultra-" Postage Stamps "specialism have been" "of Great Britain. "omitted, while a short" "bibliography of the sub-ject is added for those who desire to continue" "the study of this interesting branch of philately." The work is excellently illustrated and appears to us adequate for the purpose intended. As an appendix is reproduced the paper by H.R.H the Prince of Wales on King Edward's stamps from the London Philatelist though from the book itself at first sight it seems as if H.R.H had written it especially for Mr. Melville's book!

BOARD OF TRADE OFFICIALS.

The 1d and 4d. King's head postage stamps have been recently seen perforated with "Crown and B.T." and cancelled on 1st November 1904. Are these stamps still in use or is the stock in hand being used up? Rather high prices are being asked for them, which may be right if the stamps are obsolete but too high if they are in current use. The following is a list of the stamps known perforated in this manner "Crown and B.T." we should be glad to see any not mentioned.

- 1880. 2d. rose
- 1881. 1d. lilac
- 1884. 2d. lilac; 5d. green
- 1887. (Queen) ½d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d.
- 1902. (King) 1d., 1½d., 2d., 4d., 9d.